

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09162 191626Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 TRSE-00 /106 W
-----096814 191639Z /44

P 191524Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4290
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 9162

ATHENS AND AMMAN FOR MEZVINSKY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OTRA (MEZVINSKY, EDWARD), SHUM, IS, UR
SUBJECT: HAARETZ ARTICLE ON MEZVINSKY VISIT

1. ON JULY 19, HAARETZ PRINTED ARTICLE WRITTEN BY YEHUDIT WINKLER, ENTITLED "U.S. EMISSARY CARRIED OUT A STUDY TOUR OF THE TERRITORIES TO LOOK INTO HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION."
(FYI: U.S. SOURCE MENTIONED IN ARTICLE WAS ACTING PRESS ATTACHE. END FYI.) TEXT FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MR. EDWARD MEZVINSKY, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, SPENT THE LAST FIVE DAYS CONDUCTING A STUDY TOUR OF JUDEA, SAMARIA AND THE GAZA STRIP IN ORDER TO LOOK INTO THE STATE OF SECURITY PRISONERS AND EXAMINE MORE THOROUGHLY VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TERRITORIES. HE ALSO MET WITH RELATIVES OF THE "PRISONERS OF ZION" OF THE SOVIET UNION. YESTERDAY HE CROSSED INTO JORDAN, VIA THE ALLENBY BRIDGE. MR. MEZVINSKY'S VISIT WAS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 09162 191626Z

NOT PUBLICIZED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ISRAEL. A U.S. SOURCE SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE VISIT WAS MEANT TO GATHER INFORMATION FIRST HAND, IN ORDER TO REPORT TO CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SEVERAL MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ISRAEL.

3. THE COORDINATOR FOR ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES, MAJOR GENERAL AVRAHAM ORLY, TOLD THE VISITOR THAT ISRAEL IS ES-

PECIALLY SENSITIVE TO THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHERE THE RESIDENTS OF THE TERRITORIES ARE CONCERNED, AND THAT IT HAS NO HESITATIONS - WHEN CASES OF AN IRREGULAR NATURE OCCUR AT TIMES - IN BRINGING THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO TRIAL FOR THE REQUIRED LESSONS. IT WAS ALSO STRESSED (IN TALKS BETWEEN THE VISITOR AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS WITH DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN) THAT ISRAEL WAS ACTING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE GENEVA CONVENTION AND THAT ONLY 25 ADMINISTRATIVE DETAINEES NOW REMAINED IN PRISON.

4. EDWARD MEZVINSKY, A FORMER SENATOR FROM IOWA (SIC), MET WITH VARIOUS PERSONALITIES IN THE TERRITORIES, INCLUDING AZIZ SHIHADDEH OF RAMALLAH, THE MAYORS OF HEBRON (SIC) AND HALHUL, WITH JOSEPH LOWENSTEIN WHO HEADS BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY, AND NAFEZ NAZAL, HEAD OF THE BIR ZEIT COLLEGE (SIC). SO FAR AS IS KNOWN, THE SUBJECT OF THE BIR ZEIT COLLEGE WAS THE ONLY CONCRETE ISSUE RAISED BY THE VISITOR AT HIS MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT.

5. MR. MEZVINSKY ALSO MET WITH SEVERAL LEGAL FIGURES, INCLUDING MR. MEIR SHAMGAR, A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME COURT, WITH STATE ATTORNEY GAVRIEL BACH, THE LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY MEIR ROSENNE, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR-GENERAL EFRAIM EVRON AND THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS HAIM LEVY (SIC). HE FURTHER MET WITH THE HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN ISRAEL. THE TIMING OF THIS VISIT, AT THE HEIGHT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 09162 191626Z

OF THE SHCHARANSKY TRIAL AND ITS VERDICT WAS PROBABLY THE MAIN REASON FOR THE RELUCTANCE OF U.S. ELEMENTS TO MAKE THE MATTER PUBLIC. TOWARDS THE END OF HIS VISIT MR. MEZVINSKY MET FOR A TALK WITH AVRAHAM HARMAN, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL FOR SOVIET JEWRY, AND WITH RELATIVES OF THE PRISONERS OF ZION STILL IN RUSSIA. AT THE MEETING THE VISITOR STRESSED AND REAFFIRMED THE U.S. COMMITMENT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, BUT NOTED THAT THIS REQUIRED WIDESPREAD PUBLIC SUPPORT IN EUROPE AND IN THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

6. IN THIS CONTEXT THE VISITOR HINTED THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES COULD BE ENLISTED TO COME TO THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S. STAND AGAINST THE PERSECUTION OF SOVIET JEWS. THOSE PRESENT AT THE MEETING OBTAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD COME TO A DECISION ON EFFECTING AN EXCHANGE WITH THE SOVIET UNION, BY MEANS OF WHICH SHCHARANSKY WOULD BE FREED. THE SISTER OF IDA NUDEL, WHO HAS BEEN EXILED TO SIBERIA, SAID THAT IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE FOR SUCH EXCHANGE TO BE EFFECTED ON A ONE-TO-ONE BASIS, SINCE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO COMPARE FIGHTERS FOR THE RIGHT TO EMIGRATE THE REJOIN THEIR FAMILIES WITH SPIES. THE VISITOR ASKED THOSE ACTIVE ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY TO EXPLAIN HOW THE CONTRADICTION

COULD BE RESOVED OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF APPLICANTS
PRESSING THEIR RELATIVES TO REQUEST EXIT VISAS FOR THEM AND

THE INCREASE IN THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMIGRATING ON THE
ONE HAND, AND THE SEVERITY DISPLAYED BY THE SOVIET AUTHORI-
TIES TOWARDS 'ALIYAH' (IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL) ACTIVITISTS ON
THE OTHER. IN REPLY, HIS LISTENERS REMINDED HIM OF THE
SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SOVIET EMIGRATION OFFICE WOULD
NO LONGER HANDLE ANY EXIT VISAS AFTER DECEMBER 1978, IN VIEW
OF THE OLYMPICS SLATED TO TAKE PLACE IN RUSSIA; AND THAT
MOST PROBABLY THE WAVE OF ANTISEM WAS LEADING TO AN
INCREASING NUMBER OF JEWS ANXIOUS TO LEAVE THE USSR. CIRCLES
CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH SOVIET JEWRY MATTERS YESTERDAY
EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS FIRMLY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TEL AV 09162 191626Z

RESOLVED TO FREE SHCHARANSKY, AND THEREBY GAIN THE ESTEEN
OF U.S. JERY. BUT THEY ALSO FEEL THAT THE U.S. HAS NO
INTENTION OF TAKING ANY SIGNIFICANT STEPS IN ITS RELATIONS
WITH RUSSIA CONCERNING THE MATTER OF SHCHARANSKY, GINZBURG,

AND OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED, INCLUDING NON-JEWS.
END TEXT.
VIETS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, VISITS, COMMISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV09162
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780296-0651
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780741/aaaabifz.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29753570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1950516
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HAARETZ ARTICLE ON MEZVINSKY VISIT
TAGS: OTRA, SHUM, IS, UR, UNHCR, (MEZVINSKY, EDWARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29753570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014